

HQ U.S. Army Installation Management Agency, Europe Region



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PRESS RELEASE

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2005 Army Emergency Relief Campaign starts in March

HEIDELBERG, GE – The Installation Management Agency – Europe announced today the Army's annual fund-raising campaign for Army Emergency Relief (AER) will run this year from March 1st to May 15th.

Army Emergency Relief (AER) is a private, nonprofit organization, dedicated solely to **"Helping the Army Take Care of its Own."** AER has been the Army's emergency financial assistance organization since Feb. 5, 1942.

Soldiers – active and retired – who wish to contribute may do so through a monthly allotment from their pay or with a check or cash donation to campaign coordinators in their ASG, BSB or AST. Contributors will receive receipts for their donations, and contributions are tax deductible.

In 2004, more than 40,000 Soldiers and family members received more than \$35 million in AER assistance.

AER emergency financial assistance is available to:

- Soldiers on extended active duty and their eligible family members.
- Army members of Reserve Components (U.S. Army Reserve and Army National Guard) on orders for continuous active duty for a period of more than 30 consecutive days, and their eligible family members.
- Soldiers who retired from active duty for longevity or by reason of physical disability or upon attaining age 60 (Reserve Components); and their eligible family members.
- Widows(ers) and orphans of Soldiers who died while on active duty or after retirement.

AER financial assistance is available when:

- Soldiers and their eligible family members have a valid emergency financial need.
- Widows(ers) and orphans of deceased soldiers have an emergency need.

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- Unmarried dependent children need financial assistance for undergraduate level study.

AER emergency financial assistance is provided as a:

- Loan, repaid without interest.
- Grant, when repayment would cause hardship.
- Combination loan and grant when repayment of the full amount of assistance would cause hardship.

AER funds are made available to local commanders to provide financial assistance for Soldiers with valid emergency need. Soldiers in need can contact their community ACS office or local chapter of the American Red Cross.

Since it was founded in 1942, AER has provided more than \$870 million in assistance to more than 2.9 million Army people -- active and retired -- and their family members. More information about AER and their services to Soldiers and their families is available at <http://www.aerhq.org>

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The U.S. Army Installation Management Agency, Europe (IMA-E) is one of seven regional offices created Oct. 1, 2002, as part of an Army-wide initiative to focus management of Army installations around the world under one organization. IMA-E is responsible for all facets of support for U.S. Army Soldiers and families in Europe from drivers licenses to child care to force protection. As the landlord for all U.S. Army facilities in Europe, IMA-E is responsible for infrastructure and continuing the Army's strong commitment to environmental protection. Its higher headquarters is located in Arlington, Va.